

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01 ACDA-07 /090 W

----- 018556

R 161650Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4907

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MZ, RH, PFOR, MIL

SUBJECT: RHODESIAN RAID ON ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP: POTPOURRI

REF: (A) MAPUTO 917 (NOTAL) (B) MAPUTO 915

1. GPRM STATEMENT: FOLLOWING NEARLY A FULL WEEK  
OF OFFICIAL SILENCE ON THE RHODESIAN RAID ON THE  
NHAZONIA ZIMBABWEAN REFUGEE CAMP, THE GOVERNMENT  
OF MOZAMBIQUE ISSUED A STATEMENT AUGUST 15 ACCUSING  
THE RHODESIAN MILITARY OF "INDISCRIMINATELY" MURDERING  
HUNDREDS OF DEFENSELESS CIVILIANS. THE STATEMENT  
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOZAMBIQUE SERVED AS REFUGE FOR

ZIMBABWE FREEDOM FIGHTERS AND ASSERTED THAT MOZAMBIQUE  
WOULD CONTINUE TO ASSIST ZIMBABWEANS IN THEIR STRUGGLE  
AGAINST THE SMITH REGIME DESPITE RHODESIAN RAIDS.

2. RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH MACHEL: DURING  
BRIEF AIRPORT ENCOUNTER BEFORE PRESIDENT MACHEL DEPARTED  
FOR COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED MEETING AUGUST 15, RUSSIAN  
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AMBASSADOR DISCLOSED TO AMBASSADOR THAT HIS MEETING WITH

MACHEL ON SATURDAY FOLLOWED ALONG SAME LINE AS  
MACHEL'S COVERSATION WITH AMERICAN AND BRITISH  
AMBASSADORS. ELABORATING, RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR SAID THAT  
IN ORDER TO STOP FUTURE INCURSIONS, MOZAMBIQUE HAD NO  
CHOICE BUT TO BUILD UP ITS MILITARY DEFENSES. HE ALSO SAID THAT  
MACHEL WILL MAKE A MAJOR APPEAL AT NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT FOR  
THIRD WORLD SOLIDARITY AND SUPPORT IN HIS FIGGHT AGAINST  
RHODESIA. RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR VOLUNTEERED HIS OPINION THAT  
SMITH WAS DELIBERATELY TRYING TO "INTERNATIONALIZE THE  
PROBLEM" IN ORDER TO ELICIT MORE OPEN SOUTH AFRICAN  
SUPPORT.

3. UNHCR VIEWS: IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR EVENING  
AUGUST 14, UNHCR REP HUGO IDOYAGO ASSERTED THAT NHAZONIA  
WAF NOT BZING USED AS AH MILITARY TRAINING CAMP OR  
STAGING AREA TO LAUNCH ATTACKS INTO RHODESIA. IDOYAGO  
SAID THTE HE PERSONALLY VISITED CAMP SEVERAL WEEKS AGO AND  
THAT IT WAS A CIVILIAN REFUGEE CENTER WHICH UNHCR  
WAS SUPPORTING. SERGIO DE MELO , DEPUTY UNHCR REP  
INFORMED EMBOFF THAT OFFICIAL DEATH TOLL (BEING  
KEPT BY MOZAMBIICANS) HAD RISEN TO OVER ONE THOUSAND,  
MOSTLY WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ELDER MEM. UNHCR OFFICIALS  
ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO VISIT NHAZONA WEDNESDAY MORNING.

4. LOCAL NEWS COVERAGE: DURING PAST THREE DAYS, LOCAL  
PRESS HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO NHAZONIA RAID,  
REPLETE WITH NUMBEROUS GRUESOME AND TRAGIC PICTURES OF  
DECAPITATED CADAVERS, BURNED BODIES AND MASS BURIAL  
SITES. ACCORDING NOTICIAS, EYEWITNESSES TESTIFY THAT  
RHODESIANS WERE ABLE TO PENETRATE CAMP EASILY BECAUSE  
OF THE PRESENCE OF BLACK PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING SOLDIERS AND OF  
MAURICE NHAIT, FORMER ZAPU DEFECTOR WHO IS NOW WORKING  
WITH RHODESIANS. NOTICIAS ALSO REPORTS THAT THE  
ATTACK CLAIMED THE LIVES OF TWO PORTUGUESE ENGINEERS WORKING  
ON THE CABORA BASSA PROJECT TWO EUROPEAN TOPOGRAPHERS AND  
TWO CATHOLIC PRIESTS. ALL WERE KILLED WHILE TRAVELLING  
IN THEIR CARS ON THE ROAD FROM CHIMOIO (FORMERLY VILA  
PERY) TO TETE. THE CATHOLIC BISHOP OF TETE PROVINCE  
REPORTEDLY SURVIVED AN ATTACK ON HIS VEHICLE.

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5. CONSEQUENCES OF RAID ON CABORA BASSA: THE  
DESTRUCTION OF THE PUNGOE RIVER BRIDGE, WHICH THE PRESS  
HAS ALSO REPORTED, WILL LEAD TO SLOW-DOWN ON THE WORK  
ON CABORA BASSA DAM. APPARENTLY SINCE THE CLOSURE  
OF THE RHODESIAN BORDER ON MARCH 3, ALL THE GENERATORS,  
TURBINES AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT BEING SENT TO CABORA  
BASSA HAD TO TRAVERSE THIS BRIDGE. AT LEAST TWO SPANS  
OF THE BRIDGE WERE KNOCKED OUT DURING THE RHODESIAN

ATTACK.

6. VOA COMMENTARY: EMBOFFS WHO HAVE BEEN LISTEING  
TO VOA REPORTS ON RAID NOTE THE VOA REFERRED TO RAIDS AS  
ATTACKS ON "ZIMOEBWEAN GUERRILLA BASE ." THIS IS SALISBURGY'  
CONTENTION. IN LIGHT OF GPRM'S AND UNHCR REP'S CONTENTION  
(PARA 1 AND 3) WE RECOMMEND THAT VOA MAKE NOTE OF THESE  
DIFFERENT CLAIMS.

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## Message Attributes

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